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Highest of all in Leavening Power—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

UNCLE SAM'S PATENT SHOP

Forty Thousand Applications Received Every Year.

ALL PATENTS ISSUED ON TUESDAY.

Special to the Press.

Few people who obtain patents have any idea of the practical routine of the office which grants them their coveted document guaranteeing protection for seventeen years in the enjoyment of their invention. The present Patent Office building, which cost something like three million dollars, was begun in 1836, and the last wing, completed in time for holding the Lincoln inaugural ball. It shelters the five hundred clerks of the Patent Office force: about four hundred Land Office clerks, and the personal force of the Secretary of the Interior, some two hundred in number.

The question of making the Patent Office wholly independent of the Interior Department has long been agitated, and today in its work it is practically so. The Secretary, it is true, appoints all the clerks, but only upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Patents, and appeals are taken from the Commissioner's decision, not to the Secretary but directly to the courts.

According to the first patent law, the question of granting patents was decided by the Secretaries of State and War, and the Attorney General, and the document was signed by the President. In 1836 the office was formed as a bureau of the State Department, and the law provided for a commissioner, one examining clerk, three other clerks, a messenger and a chaplain. A few years later this bureau was transferred to the Interior Department.

At the present time there are in the examining corps of the Patent Office about two hundred people. As our system requires the patent to be a tolerably certain guaranty both as to practical utility and as to novelty, it is necessary that every possible field of invention should have its expert. The examining force is divided in 34 divisions, each having its regular line of inventions and its quota of experts, and each division being entirely independent of all others, and arbitrarily granting or refusing patents in its own line.

In each examining division there are from four to six assistant examiners, and each assistant has his regular branch or subdivision of the work. One man may make a lifelong study of gas engines, another of photography, a third of a particular branch of metallurgy, etc. The chief of the division is called the Principal Examiner, and his salary is \$2,500. The assistants rank as 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th assistants, and their salaries range from \$1,800 to \$1,200. Admission is obtained to the force as Fourth Assistant Examiner after a special technical examination in charge of the Civil Service Commission. Very few, excepting graduates of colleges or technical schools, pass the examinations, and for the last ten years nearly every man appointed has been fresh from active studies. The Annapolis Naval Academy has furnished more men for the examining corps than any other school, although Yale, Cornell, the University of Michigan, and the Worcester Polytechnic Institute are not far behind. Some forty American colleges in all are represented. Tenure of office is regarded as sure, whatever the politics of the administration.

Examinations as to office rules and decisions of the Commissioner and various courts upon questions regarding the patents, are held every year or two, and each person entering the examination is afterwards given a printed list of competitors, arranged in the order of merit. The promotions follow this list almost uniformly. Removals for political purposes are practically unknown. On an average about ten Fourth Assistant Examiners are appointed each year to

fill vacancies caused by resignations or deaths. The examining force is the great school of training for patent attorneys or agents. After a few years of office work, and a course of law in one of Washington's evening law schools, the young examiner is "open to offers" or ready to start in for himself.

The scientific library, to aid the examiners in their work, contains 65,000 volumes, and has on file six hundred technical magazines. In times past some divisions would keep up to date with their work, while others would lag from two to fourteen months behind. This caused perpetual wonder among inventors as to why some applications would go through so quickly, while others were unexamined for months. Many an attorney has had work taken out of his hands because a rival had happened to file an application relating to an art kept up to date. At present, for the first time in fifteen years, the work of the entire office is kept within one month of date. The Patent Office receives about forty thousand applications per year, and acts favorably upon about seventy-five per cent. of them.

All patents are issued on or before Tuesday, and are given regular numbers in their proper order. The present series, which was begun in 1836, has just passed 534,000. Copies of all patents are kept in stock, and will be sent to any one who desires them, at a uniform price of ten cents each. "Positively no credit is given" to any one.

Aside from the scientific examining corps, there are some three hundred members of the clerical force of the Patent Office. Their duties are to receive and prepare the applications, print and prepare the patent when granted; prepare copies of drawings; record assignments and attend to the many outside duties arising in carrying on the work of the office. And although their work is interesting and important, it can not be here more fully indicated. The value of the patents granted by the Government of the United States depends largely upon the skill and experience of the examiners.

THEY CHEERED IT.

Uncle Sam's Flag Honored By New Foundland Citizens.

The Vessel That Hoisted It Bore Provisions To Them.

St. John's, N. F., March 7.—The steamship Grand Lake, from Halifax with donations for the poor and offering from Halifax people on board, arrived here at 5:30 o'clock this afternoon and was welcomed by more than two thousand persons, who crowded the wharf and cheered with the wildest enthusiasm. The stars and stripes floated at the Grand Lake's masthead. A feature of the demonstration was the wild manner in which the crowd responded to cheers for the flag. Finally cheers were proposed for the American people, and the frenzied crowd cheered until almost exhausted. After the vessel had been made fast to the wharf, his lordship, Rev. Llewellyn Jones, bishop of Newfoundland, and others went aboard and met Mr. Fay, who had charge of the provisions. Owing to the lateness of the hour it was decided to call a meeting of the relief committee at 7 o'clock tomorrow, when the goods will be formally handed over to the representatives of the various religious denominations for distribution to the unfortunate people throughout the island. The situation and plans of distribution were fully explained to Mr. Fay and he expressed entire satisfaction at the manner in which relief is to be given. It is hoped that every person requiring help will be given a share.

The destitution existing in Newfoundland is dreadful. About two thousand families in St. John alone are in dire distress, and the same state exists all over the island. It is feared the worst has not been seen. Five thousand persons are now fed daily by public charity, and this will have to be kept up for a long time yet to come in order to prevent untold suffering.

RUBBER TREES.

How They Are Tapped in the Brazilian Forests.

The business of rubber gathering, after the forest has been reached, begins with the opening of a road—a winding pathway just wide enough to allow a man to pass from tree to tree. Usually one hundred rubber trees are connected by one of these roads, the intervals between them varying from twenty feet or less to hundreds, while one man's road may not be more than a quarter of a mile long. The nearest neighbor may have to walk five or six times as far to reach the same number of trees.

There is as much difference in the milk from rubber trees as in the milk from different cows. The consistency of the sap varies, some yielding a larger and some a smaller proportion of solid rubber. In the same road one tree may yield a thick, creamy sap, or even nothing at all, the flow being so small that the sap merely puts in an appearance without reaching the cup underneath. Where several taps are made on the same tree, some may run freely, while others give nothing at all. On other trees, again, all the taps may run freely. In view of the differences in quantity and quality, the yield of the road, instead of single trees, is taken as a standard in any rubber camp.

One man can easily tap one hundred trees daily, placing on each five or six cups to catch the sap. These trees, on what is called a good road, will yield at the commencement of the crop season about 22 pounds of sap for each tapping. But all the roads are not equally good, and one with the yield just mentioned may lie next to another that yields only ten pounds of sap. On the lower Amazon, in a field containing several thousand rubber trees, not more than 10 or 12 pounds of sap can safely be counted on for each 100 trees per day. Supposing the trees to be tapped every day, the total yield of the tapping season—the total yield per tree would be about 7 pounds per tree. But a rubber gatherer can with no great exertion, work two roads a season, making at the average yield here mentioned 700 pounds of rubber. An active, hard working man can double this product, and can do even better with his wife to help. In partially cleared forests, a gatherer cares for more trees.

In the State of Amazonas the average size of the rubber trees is large and the yield greater. This is because rubber gathering has not been practiced there so long, and the trees have been allowed to mature fully before being tapped. In the lower districts, where the rubber industry has its origin, the yield per tree is much less now than formerly. A man who worked in the rubber fields forty years ago once told me that he had known roads of one hundred trees to yield 40 to 45 pounds of sap per day, while his early employer used to complain because the yield had fallen from 60 and 65 pounds. Today an occasional rubber tree will sometimes yield two pounds at a single tapping, but there are more on which the scanty exudation dries on the bark without reaching the cup.

The quantity of sap needed for making a pound of india rubber varies more than the quantity of milk needed to make a pound of butter. As two pounds may be given as the average, very much more is sometimes necessary. The yield of rubber from a given measure of sap is greater at the beginning of the season than at its close, the saps consistency steadily diminishing.

The age at which rubber trees become fit for tapping depends upon their surroundings. In the dense forests they will hardly bear tapping before the age of twenty-five or thirty years; in partially cleared forests they can be tapped at sixteen years, while on lands from which the other growth has been removed, rubber trees begin to yield at ten years, and if carefully treated, appear not to suffer from the tapping. The trees in cleared spaces grow much more rapidly than those in the dense forests. Without doubt the application of science would increase the yield of sap and also the proportion of solid rubber contained in it, but this good result is not yet to be looked for. The rubber gatherers will trust to the prodigality of nature, until all of the unexplored fields have been opened and all the existing trees have been exhausted. How long that will be in the future may be imagined when one reflects that trees continue to be tapped that have been yielding rubber ever since it became marketable.

The season for tapping trees may last for three months, and sometimes

six, the operation being performed daily. This is determined by the size of the trees and the richness of the yield. In some cases the trees are tapped only every other day. In others the trees are tapped daily during the season, but only in alternate years. A rubber gatherer who owns nothing in the locality where he works sometimes taps the trees so heavily as to kill them in a single season, but such a man will find it hard to get a road in the same field again. These roads often exist year after year, and have a rental value.

The cups used in catching the rubber milk as it oozes from the trees are now mostly of tin, though in places cups of burnt clay are still used, being considered superior. The cups are made in three sizes—4, 6 and 8 ounces. The smallest size is used on the lower Amazon, the middle sized ones in Amazonas, in the developed fields, and the largest size in virgin fields. In the latter case smaller cups are likely to be substituted before the crop is finished.

DEATH ON THE WATER.

The Big Steamer Longfellow Crashes Against a Bridge At Cincinnati.

AND WENT TO THE BOTTOM.

Cincinnati, Mar. 13.—The big Cincinnati, Memphis and New Orleans passenger steamer Longfellow was rounding out to leave this port for New Orleans at 7:45 a. m. today, she in some way not yet clearly explained, lost her course in the heavy fog then prevailing, and crashed against a pier of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad bridge and sank. Persons were drowned, including the first clerk, J. M. Winnie W. Car. The Longfellow was a 3,000-ton vessel, and was last evening for New Orleans, but the fog on the river was so dense that Capt. Wise, the President of the Packet Company to which the steamer belonged, ordered her to be held until this morning. He also ordered the Hercules Carroll to be ready to assist the big steamer to pass the dangerous bridge piers. For having given on this latter order Captain Wise is more than gratified, for it was undoubtedly the means of preventing a woeful loss of life.

The Carroll took a position at the port side of the Longfellow, astern, and assisted in making the turn. The boat went all right until within a short distance before reaching the pier of the bridge, when the treacherous currents began to interfere with the boat's management. There was no fog, as at first reported, but as the bow of the boat pointed to the Kentucky shore the wind blew the smoke in such a way as to entirely blind the pilot.

"I can not see anything," he shouted to Capt. John Kierker. The Captain called back to run her South of the pier. The pilot signalled the engineer to stop, using the speaking tube for that purpose, to make sure of quick action. But the current was relentless.

The simple fact that the big vessel, with its powerful consort, with the pilots obscured, was absolutely helpless. The danger was apparent. Warning was given to everybody. In a moment the Longfellow crashed against the pier, and was crushed like an egg. The stroke was alongside the boilers.

There was apparent the wisdom of having the Carroll at hand. Those who could do so rushed for safety to that vessel. With remarkable presence of mind some of the crew managed to throw some of the family lifeboats and saved the family. The destruction of the vessel was almost instantaneous. She hung to the pier while the current striking bow and stern, broke her in two and in less than five minutes she went down.

After the boat went to pieces the cabin and parts of the hull floated on down the river. Tugs chased them and succeeded in landing them down the river. In the wreckage the body of Mrs. Aull was found. Capt. Carter's body is probably there and will be recovered tomorrow.

The clerk of the boat, Capt. Lawrence Carter, committed the indiscretion, after getting aboard the Carroll, of going back for something in his office. Before he could return the vessel went down. The other lost are David Lawrence, Rome, N. Y., Mrs. W. J. Aull, Dayton, O., passengers, and Gus Chauvet, barkeeper, and James Miller, porter.

New Hardware Store IN SALEM.

We have bought the business of Tom Evans and are now getting in our New Goods. We will have everything the people want in the way of

Heavy and Shelf Hardware, Farming Implements, Harness, Saddlery, Stoves, Tinware, Fertilizer, Lime, Cement, Etc., Etc.

In fact our stock will be as complete as you can find in any Hardware store in the country. We will sell

True Blue, Oliver and Vulcan Plows and repairs, Campbell Corn Drills, Keystone Disc Harrows, Buckeye Cultivators, Owensboro and Birdsell Farm Wagons, and the best makes of Buggies, Spring Wagons and Carts.

We will have strictly first class goods in all lines that we carry and our prices will be as low as the same quality of goods can be sold anywhere.

Honest weights, good goods, close prices and courteous treatment to all IS OUR MOTTO.

We want your trade and influence, and will take pleasure in showing you what we have, we believe we can make it to your interest to trade with us. Come and see us,

YOURS TRULY,

Pierce Hardware Co.,

CURT J. PIERCE, Manager.
J. A. PIERCE, Asst. Manager

JOHN ELDER, } Salesmen.
OSCAR PIERCE, }

Corn, Feed and Saw Mill.

I have added a corn mill to my other machinery and now have a corn mill to make the best of meal; a feed mill to chop corn or wheat for stock, and a good saw mill to make the best framing lumber on the Marion market. Prices for all work very reasonable. Your patronage solicited.

O. H. PARIS.

W. E. RAGSDALE. R. E. COOPER

Ragsdale, Cooper & Co.

Main St. Tobacco Warehouse,

HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

Special attention to sampling and selling tobacco. Liberal advancements made on consignments. Our charges for selling tobacco will remain \$2.50. No commission. Freight 15 cents per 100 pounds.

I have no stock to "bust,"
I have no money to lose,
But my tools never rust,
For I've experience and hands to use.

W. A. Letzinger,
EXPERT JEWELER.

Has returned to Marion and has opened a Jeweler Shop in Thomas Bros. grocery, the old J. N. Woods stand, and is prepared to do all kinds of repairing of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Etc., Etc. His long experience and abundant supply of the very best Jeweler's tools enables him to do the very best work. HE GUARANTEES ALL HIS WORK. His prices are very low. The works of a watch, the wheel of a clock and the value of jewelry all require delicate handling, and it behooves the owner to take them to a workman who thoroughly understands his business.

D. T. BYRD, President. EDWARD RICE, Cashier.
J. W. RICE, Vice-President. J. C. ELDER, Jr., Asst. Cashier.

Fredonia Valley Bank,

KELSEY, KENTUCKY.

CAPITAL STOCK \$15,000.00.

Furnishes Unsurpassed Safety to Depositors. A Double Lock Burglar Proof Safe, Fire Proof Vaults.

Correspondents: Bank of Commerce, Louisville, Ky. Farmers National Bank, New York, N. Y. Old National Bank, Evansville, Ind.

All kinds of legitimate banking business transacted. The accounts and patronage of the public solicited. Special attention given to collections. DIRECTORS—D. T. Byrd, J. W. Rice, M. B. Lowery, W. C. Rice, S. H. Casper, J. C. Elder, Jr., Secretary.